

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PUBLIC WORKSHOP
THREE RIVERS, CA
MARCH 19, 2007

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. **What is a working landscape? Want a definition. Does it include both public and private lands?**
2. How about the most historic hydroelectric power facility in the state as a working landscape? It's right here.
3. Will there be a balance between the economic impact of a private ranch (vis-à-vis its use of public land) and benefit to the public of that use of land?
4. **Will SNC have staff to help with writing grant applications?**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

COMMENTS

1. Hope working landscape definition is broader than just private ranches. Need to think out of the box.
2. **Regarding Program Guidelines, page 10: "Assisting the Regional Economy" could refer to job training/certificates. Youth need opportunities.**

GRANT GUIDELINES

QUESTIONS

1. **What percentage of Prop. 84 funds will be used for administrative costs before ever being distributed?**
2. **Three Rivers has been trying to get public restrooms. A citizen has offered to donate the land and the building for restrooms, can SNC fund the maintenance?**
3. **Are funds available for beautifying Highway 198? Trying to get it designated as a scenic byway and want to plant additional native plants. Our Redbud Garden Club is nonprofit but not incorporated, is it eligible for funds? So the Redbud Garden Club is not eligible and would need to partner with an eligible organization?**
4. Can a Community Service District be considered eligible? How about 501(c)(3)s?
5. Can SNC purchase land for critical habitat/wildlife corridors? Could SNC provide a vehicle to get the conservation easement for such a project? SNC wouldn't hold the conservation easement?
6. How about a 501(c)(6)? Are those eligible?
7. If a private party buys waterfront land and the river is contaminated, can SNC help?

8. **Are funds available for certificates/job training in project areas we're discussing? i.e. water?**
9. Are matching funds required?
10. What is the schedule for grants? Do you have a date when proposals are due?
11. **Is there a time limit for spending grant money?**
12. Would SNC look with more favor on producing a study, or a plan that's enforceable at the county level?
13. There is no money for other types of projects (i.e., non-water quality projects)?

GRANT GUIDELINES

COMMENTS

1. We are doing a weed abatement program and are now in the second year of the program. Receiving matching funds from the State for star thistle abatement, can SNC provide more? The program involves preservation of land.
2. Many in the Camp Nelson area are already voluntarily undertaking these types of protection and restoration projects.
3. **In the Grant Guidelines everything seems pretty tied in to water quality. May have to get creative. If we have a project could SNC help us find or add alternate funding sources?**

OTHER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Water is so important to Three Rivers and the State. This watershed makes Central Valley agriculture possible. Baseline studies about the carrying capacity of these resources could be highly valuable, good to build the database. Would SNC put such information in its e-library?
2. Can SNC create and maintain an on-line library of successful projects, best management practices, etc.? This could help others with similar projects. It would also be helpful to be able to search on key words, or provide abstracts of documents (some are very long).
3. Regarding the web site: Will there be transparency? Can we see what applications were submitted/accepted/rejected and why? Want to learn from it.
4. The National Park Service (NPS) and Tulare County both have ideas about what they want to do in the county. Three Rivers needs a planning study on what to do IN Three Rivers, rather than having someone else tell them what to do. Three Rivers is lacking tourist facilities, but wants to develop a tourist economy. Can SNC help with a planning study? The town wants people to come, but there is no place to walk, go to the river, or use the restroom. The City of Visalia and the NPS got a grant for a

- shuttle service, but Three Rivers doesn't know if it is included or if it even has a bus stop!
5. What is the closest satellite office to Three Rivers? Mariposa is far away.
 6. Does SNC partner with State and local agencies? Tulare County has only one State park and not many county parks.
 7. What would it take to have a closer satellite office?
 8. Congressmen set up "office hours," a set time to interact. Maybe it would be a good idea for SNC to do the same.
 9. In Yokohl Valley there is a proposed residential subdivision. Some people like the idea, some people don't. How could SNC help people talk about it?
 10. Do you plan to monitor wells in the foothills and determine if we're overdrawing?
 11. I didn't find out about the meeting till 4:15 today and I live one hour away. Will there be any more meetings near Camp Nelson?
 12. The NPS Superintendent for Sequoia National Park stated that he was very happy to help on behalf of all federal land managers in the area. The NPS has a non-voting spot on the SNC Board, but is an important partner because so much land in the Sierra is publicly owned. The NPS hopes for opportunities through the SNC to do a lot of partnership-building, projects, and other things to be a good community neighbor/partner.

SUBREGIONAL ISSUES RAISED

1. Tourism/subregional economy
2. Water quality/quantity
3. Invasive vs. native species
4. Wildlife habitat
5. Maintenance
6. Job training
7. Working landscapes